

southeast Alaska. The project is not projected to be economically viable until the completion of the associated Swan-Tyee transmission line. The Cape Fox Corporation, which oversees the construction and the operation and the maintenance of the project, stands to lose a substantial investment in the project if the license expires prior to completion of the transmission line.

Last year, S. 1843, a similar bill, was amended and passed the House by unanimous consent. While that bill was amended by the House, the official papers that were delivered to the Senate did not contain the amendment that passed the House. As a result, the version subsequently passed by the Senate did not contain the House amendment, and the Speaker properly did not sign the bill to clear it for the White House since the official papers did not accurately reflect the vote or the will of the House. This was the right thing for the Speaker to do. It is important that the author and supporters of this bill not be penalized unnecessarily for the clerical error that occurred in the House. I am pleased we are able to move this bill quickly to fulfill our commitment to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and to his constituents. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 397.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REINSTATING AND EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN ILLINOIS

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 397) to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Illinois.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 397

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT.

Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 11214, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee for the project, and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that sec-

tion and the Commission's procedures under that section—

(1) reinstate the license for the construction of the project as of the effective date of the surrender of the license; and

(2) extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for 3 consecutive 2-year periods beyond the date that is 4 years after the date of issuance of the license.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 397, a bill that I introduced. H.R. 397, which passed the Committee on Energy and Commerce by voice vote, will help the city of Carlyle, Illinois, construct a hydroelectric power plant on Carlyle Lake in my district. This plant will enable communities in southwestern Illinois to use water flowing through the Carlyle Lake Dam to help meet their energy needs.

In 1967 the Army Corps of Engineers formed Carlyle Lake by building a dam on the Kaskaskia River. Since the lake was formed, surrounding communities have not had a hydroelectric power plant to make use of the lake's tremendous potential as a renewable energy source. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, known as FERC, granted Southwestern Electric Cooperative a license to begin construction of a power plant in 1997. But the cooperative surrendered the license after it was unable to begin the project in the required time period. This legislation would permit the FERC to reinstate Southwestern Electric Cooperative's license and extend the deadline to begin construction so that there is time to properly design a facility.

This generating facility will utilize the already-existing dam, helping to reduce the cost and minimize any environmental concerns. The city of Carlyle estimates that the hydroelectric power plant would provide more than one third its annual energy needs.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I rise in support of H.R. 397, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) on the Committee of En-

ergy and Commerce. H.R. 397 extends the deadline for commencement of construction for up to 6 years. Not counting the years in which the license was surrendered, this potentially amounts to 9 years for the licensee to commence construction. The legislation provides for up to three consecutive 2-year extensions instead of a single 6-year extension to ensure that the licensee must continue to meet Federal Power Act section 13 requirements to prosecute construction in good faith and with due diligence before obtaining each 2-year extension.

This requirement to move forward in good faith and due diligence is important because when someone holds a license, but fails to develop a project, that someone is potentially preventing others from developing the site for hydropower or other uses. Sometimes a licensee who is not developing a site may in fact be purposely using license extensions to prevent other potential applicants from developing it, a process known as "site banking." While FERC is not aware of any other party that is interested in this particular case in developing this site, if FERC determines a licensee is not prosecuting construction in good faith and with due diligence, the agency can in fact refuse to grant a request for an additional 2-year extension, can terminate the license, and make the site available for other uses. This is appropriate public policy.

The author deserves credit for crafting the legislation in this manner. I urge my colleagues to pass the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 397.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

RECOGNIZING THE 92ND BIRTHDAY OF RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 19) recognizing the 92nd birthday of Ronald Reagan.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 19

Whereas February 6, 2003, is the 92d birthday of Ronald Wilson Reagan;

Whereas Ronald Reagan is the first former President ever to attain the age of 92;

Whereas both Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan have distinguished records of public service to the United States, the American people, and the international community;

Whereas Ronald Reagan was twice elected by overwhelming margins as President of the United States;

Whereas Ronald Reagan fulfilled his pledge to help restore "the great, confident roar of American progress, growth, and optimism" and ensure renewed economic prosperity;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's leadership was instrumental in extending freedom and democracy around the globe and uniting a world divided by the Cold War;

Whereas Ronald Reagan is loved and admired by millions of Americans, and by countless others around the world;

Whereas the recent tragic loss of the space shuttle *Columbia* and her crew remind us of how, 17 years ago, Ronald Reagan's eloquence helped heal the Nation after the *Challenger* disaster;

Whereas Nancy Reagan not only served as a gracious First Lady but also led a national crusade against illegal drug use;

Whereas, together Ronald and Nancy Reagan dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas the thoughts and prayers of the Congress and the country are with Ronald Reagan in his courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress, on behalf of the American people, extends its birthday greetings and best wishes to Ronald Reagan on his 92d birthday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 19.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Joint Resolution 19, introduced by our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), recognizes the 92nd birthday of President Ronald Reagan.

Last Thursday, February 6, Ronald Reagan became the first President to reach the age of 92. This resolution honors the man whose very name represents an era, a leader who saw in America that shining city on a hill when we had lost our sense of national purpose.

Reagan's legacy transcends the decade in which he served. He has become the standard bearer of expectations for modern-day Presidents. And as time passes, history is judging him well. Those who once doubted Reagan's vision have come to recognize his greatness.

During two terms in office, Reagan bounced back from a would-be assass-

sin's attack with humor and courage. In an all-too-familiar scene, he comforted a Nation coping with the loss of our *Challenger 7*, and he kept his promises. Reagan campaigned on tax relief, and he delivered tax relief. In the process, he fueled record growth and expansion.

Reagan's accomplishments were not just on do the domestic front. At the Brandenburg Gate, he defied the diplomats and said what millions of Americans were thinking: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Today, we know that Communist Russia was shaken to its core by this new type of a leader, one who was not afraid to stand tall for freedom.

Now I hope this House will join all Americans in honoring President Reagan's 92nd birthday and, more importantly, his remarkable life.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Joint Resolution 19.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself of such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, a bigger-than-life screen actor and television personality, Ronald Reagan moved from being Governor of California in the 1960s to President of the United States and dominating American politics in the 1980s.

He was the first President to be re-elected to a second term since Dwight Eisenhower. Media-made and media-presented, Ronald Reagan got millions of Americans to feel proud of their Nation. America's 40-year Cold War with the Soviet Union cooled considerably and perhaps actually ended during Reagan's presidency. Many Americans credit him with having achieved what became a significant outcome.

Born the son of a shoe salesman in small-town Illinois, Reagan's impoverished but loving parents instilled in him a sense of optimism that carried him through college as an average student. After graduation, he worked for a few years as a sports broadcaster in Midwestern radio before landing a film contract with Warner Brothers, which took him to Hollywood in 1936. Over the next 30 years, Reagan made scores of films, including many Army films produced during World War II. He hosted two popular television series and he actively engaged in politics as president of the Screen Actors Guild.

In the 1950s, Ronald Reagan changed from being a Roosevelt New Deal Democrat to a conservative Republican. In 1966, he became Governor of California. He was reelected in 1970. Using his popularity in California, Reagan unsuccessfully challenged President Gerald Ford for the Republican nomination in 1976. He tried again and won the nomination in 1980, and thereafter defeated the incumbent Democrat, Jimmy Carter. With his 1984 reelection victory, President Reagan became the most politically successful Republican President since Eisenhower.

Today, we celebrate former President of the United States Ronald Reagan's 92nd birthday. We wish him well, and trust that he will continue to carry on.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the distinguished sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to commemorate the birthday of President Reagan. As you know, he turned 92 just a few days ago, and as you know, Mr. Speaker, we were delayed in honoring him here on the floor because of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* tragedy. It is fitting that we remember President Reagan in this context because in his time, during his presidency, he helped heal and bring together our Nation in the wake of the *Challenger* disaster.

Just as his words honored the crew of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, President Reagan's eloquence continues to comfort and console us as we now remember the fallen crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. President Reagan's words of January 28, 1986, speak to us 17 years later with all of their original force and beauty. He said, "We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them, as they prepared for their journey and waved good-bye, and 'slipped the surly bonds' of effort and 'to touch the face of God.'"

At 92, President Reagan is America's oldest President ever. The previous record was set by John Adams. You remember, Mr. Speaker, that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day, and they died, even more remarkably, on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

As we think back years from now, as we think back on our founding, on our founders, on the Declaration of Independence and our great Presidents, I am quite sure that we will recall Ronald Reagan, for he has already distinguished himself as one of America's most remarkable individuals.

Any one of his careers would itself be worthy of recognition by this Congress. He was an accomplished sports announcer on radio. He was a very renowned film actor. As you know, he was one of the best-known actors in America. He was a labor leader, twice elected president of the Screen Actors Guild. He was a very successful two-term Governor of California, and a very successful two-term President of the United States, elected twice in landslides.

He was called the Great Communicator, in part because he spent so much time on television explaining his policies to us. He was quite good at it. But it was more than communication skill, because he had something very important to communicate. Lady Thatcher, then Prime Minister Thatcher, compared Ronald Reagan to Winston Churchill. She said, "Like Winston Churchill, he made words fight like soldiers, and lifted the spirit of a nation."

If the events of September 11 have taught us anything, it is that America still requires a strong national defense against enemies who would destroy freedom and democracy.

When Ronald Reagan became President, we had endured an era of national malaise, bereft of any sense of moral direction. Throughout his term of office, throughout 8 of the fastest-moving years in history, President Reagan brought our Nation back with his Irish twinkle and that homespun style of his, which seemed never to abate. He brought a new assurance to America.

He not only was America's oldest President, he was one of America's most active Presidents ever, and he was one of the most energetic leaders of the Free World that the world has ever seen. With a toughness that we had not seen in a long time, he stood toe-to-toe with what he unabashedly described as the Evil Empire. For such moral clarity, he was dismissed as naive and dangerously undiplomatic.

When he said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," he was criticized. The realists among us knew that the Soviet Union was going to be there forever and we should learn to accommodate it. President Reagan saw a different future, and he worked hard to bring it about. As a result, hundreds of millions of people, not just in the Soviet Union, but throughout Central and Eastern Europe, were liberated.

If he were with us here today, President Reagan would humbly acknowledge that he appreciated the birthday wishes on the 53rd anniversary of his 39th birthday.

When former President Clinton was running for office, he once said America needed a President for the '90s. Perhaps now, if we could repeal the 27th Amendment, we could have a President in his 90s. Hope springs eternal.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan and his vision will not be forgotten. His love of country and his ability to see the best in all of us revitalized our common faith in the American dream. President Reagan's enthusiasm and big-hearted spirit of America continues to inspire us with a vision of our potential and the limitless possibilities that dwell just beyond the horizon.

As he said at the end of his D-Day speech in Normandy, we can say of President Reagan: Mr. President, we will always remember, and we will always be proud. Happy birthday.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for introducing this very worthwhile measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BEAUPREZ).

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the 92nd birthday of President Ronald Reagan. To many Americans, President Reagan is more than a man. He is an extraor-

dinary symbol of all that makes our society great. And as the foundation of President Reagan's greatness is his character, so it is part and parcel of our Nation's character as well.

He once said, "The character that takes command in moments of crucial choices has already been determined by 1,000 other choices made earlier in seemingly unimportant moments."

At this hour, as Congress wrestles with crucial choice, our character is being tested, I pray vigorously that our response will be founded in a tradition of great character, of wise choices. May we look to the character of Ronald Reagan for inspiration.

I will close with these words from his farewell address: "Because we are a great Nation, our challenges seem complex. It will always be this way. But as long as we remember our first principles and believe in ourselves, the future will always be ours."

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it can be said that the most important facet and indispensable quality for leadership is to be able to see the future, at least in its most important aspects, and the ability to stay the course, despite all the inevitable pressures leading in other directions in order to reach that future.

I consider it an honor to be able to rise in this House of Representatives today to wish President Reagan happy birthday on the occasion of his 92nd birthday.

□ 1600

The United States of America and, indeed, the world, owes so much to Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan was someone who, at a very critical moment in the history of the United States, arose and offered himself in leadership to, in effect, save the Free World. I admire Ronald Reagan profoundly. Each day, as we have the opportunity to learn more and more about the history of the tumultuous events that saw his presidency, that his presidency lived through, as we learn more, we see Ronald Reagan's greatness more, and not only his importance, but his indispensable, indispensable contribution to the freedom of the world and the end of what he rightfully called the Evil Empire as seen in all its truth.

So I commend my colleagues for having brought this resolution forward. Happy birthday, President Reagan.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA).

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a great man, our 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, on the occasion of his 92nd birthday. I believe it is indeed appropriate that I make my first speech

on the House floor in honor of this great man.

If it were not for his principles of limited government, personal responsibility, and strong fiscal discipline, I might not be here today. Mr. Speaker, it is with those principles in mind that I decided to become a candidate for the United States House of Representatives. It is those principles that I will remain loyal to as long as I am a Member of this body.

In 1985 President Reagan said, "We in government should learn to look at our country with the eyes of the entrepreneur, seeing possibilities where others see only problems." As a former small business owner, I could not agree more with that sentiment.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am glad that we are here today, able to honor President Reagan, because it has given me an opportunity to say "thank you" to a great man, and happy birthday, Mr. President.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 92nd birthday of our 40th President, the honorable and great Ronald Reagan.

We live in a world today that is very similar to the world that Ronald Reagan faced as President in 1981 to 1989. Just as the President overcame an economy that at the time was buried in a recession and he fought to rid the world of communism, so too our President today, George W. Bush, is working hard to put in place an economic package that will spur on the economy, while continuing to fight terrorism, both here and abroad as well.

President Reagan entered the White House in 1981 when the economy was in a recession. His solution to that problem was dubbed then, and we still call it today, "Reaganomics." It involved an immediate and across-the-board tax cut; and it was designed to create jobs, encourage investment, and provide economic efficiency in this country.

His policies essentially laid down the foundations for a prosperous and generous society. His tax cuts eventually led to higher government revenues, not less; greater economic efficiency and, ultimately, pulling us out of that recession.

President Reagan also took a strong moral stance against communism on all fronts. Knowing that our Nation faced grave threats on a daily basis, he provided our military with the resources they needed at that time to get the job done, and they were able to get the job done.

President Reagan is really one of the greatest figures of our time, and he will be remembered in the White House and in this Nation as a man of great talent and great character.

We must honor his legacy today by continuing to ensure that tyranny is

conquered by liberty and that every American sees permanent tax relief in their checkbook.

I believe we do this, Mr. Speaker, by continuing to make every effort to stand for freedom, defend our citizens, and to help make the world a safer and better place to live. We do that by bringing terrorists to justice and spreading prosperity to all Americans with job creation and immediate tax relief.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), who knew and worked very closely with President Reagan.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, happy birthday to Ronald Reagan. I am sure Nancy is watching, and she knows how much we care for and love Ronald Reagan; and she has been at his side from the beginning.

I met Ronald Reagan when I worked in his campaign for Governor in 1966. I worked on both of his presidential campaigns; and then, after he won his presidential race in 1980, I went with him to the White House for 7 years and worked with him as one of his principal speech writers. Let me note, I had never written a speech for anyone before I wrote a speech for Ronald Reagan as President of the United States. He taught me all about speech-writing. We always used to say, if President Reagan was not a President, he was a good enough writer to be the President's speech writer.

But more than that, his skill was his principles that counted. He had principles and ideals. He had a philosophy that included an economic philosophy and a personal philosophy. He brought about a change in the national spirit that saved America. He brought about a change in the economy that saved America. He brought about a change in America's strategic position that saved the world. His tax cuts turned our economy around and gave us the longest period of growth in American history. And yes, there were deficits. But had we not had Ronald Reagan's economic policy in place, those deficits charted out the way it was before Reagan would have been twice as big as what happened under Reagan's period of growth.

Bill Clinton could not even change the direction that Ronald Reagan started. That is how strong an influence he was on the American people. Remember, right up here, Bill Clinton declared the era of big growth or big government is over.

But what is most important, Ronald Reagan, criticized by people on the other side of the aisle, criticized as a war monger, criticized as someone who had a bad heart, stood firm and strong, supported freedom in the world, and demanded that Gorbachev tear down the Wall. This is what changed the world. It was his strength of character, even when he was being criticized personally and undermined every step of the way for political purposes, he stood strong

and the will of the Communist bosses in Moscow crumbled, for the first President they ever had to stand up, who really believed in freedom and democracy and was willing to make that part of America's offensive policy against Communist tyranny.

That changed the world. It has made it safer. It gave us the opportunity to spend less money, hundreds of billions of dollars less on a national defense over the years. We would never have had that respite, except that Ronald Reagan stood firm. When people said, let us have a nuclear freeze that leaves the Soviet Union in a dominant position, Reagan said no. If we are going to do anything with nuclear weapons, it has to leave us both on par. We will have a mutual reduction of nuclear weapons, and that is exactly what happened. They said it could never be done, and they called him a war monger for demanding something that could never happen, that the Communist bosses would never agree to.

Mr. Speaker, we are all the recipients of Ronald Reagan's wisdom. We all are benefiting from the strength of character of this man who carried us from uncertainty and in retreat and left an America on the rise, an America that was growing economically, but an America that was reinvigorated in its commitment to freedom and justice and to treat the people of the world decently. We captured, we captured the hearts and souls of the people throughout the world, the young people, especially those in the Soviet Union.

Today, we should take heed of what Ronald Reagan did and remember, those people in Iraq are our greatest ally. Those people in China are our greatest ally, those people who want democracy and freedom and suffer under their tyranny; and we should be on their side and we too can make this a better and more peaceful world as Ronald Reagan did. We are grateful to Ronald Reagan. Happy birthday, Ronald Reagan. We are grateful to you. We really appreciate it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, for all of the reasons that have been articulated by my esteemed colleagues, I urge adoption of this measure.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to recognize former President Ronald Reagan's ninety-second birthday and his unceasing commitment to our great nation.

In 2000, Congresswoman JENNIFER DUNN, the late Senator Paul Coverdell, and I introduced legislation to bestow the Congressional Gold Medal to President Reagan and his beloved wife, Nancy, in honor of their dedicated service to the United States.

The Reagans formally received their Congressional Gold Medal last May, at a special ceremony here in the Capitol.

Upon passage of the Reagan Congressional Gold Medal bill, Mrs. Reagan remarked, "it means a lot to us to receive so much support at this difficult time, and we are very honored."

Yet, honor and fame were never priorities for Ronald Reagan, and his journey to the White House was not marked by a desire for power or position.

He preferred to see himself as a simple citizen who was called upon to serve the nation he so loved.

Ronald Reagan truly is a great American, in every sense.

Led by his belief in the limitless potential of Americans, President Reagan turned the tide of public cynicism and sparked a national renewal.

During his eight year tenure, the United States enjoyed a period of astonishing economic growth, military superiority, and international change.

Ronald Reagan's contagious optimism and passionate patriotism served as an inspiration to the entire nation. Under his leadership, Americans believed, once again, in the American Dream.

As we enter the 21st Century, our Nation still finds its strength in President Reagan's ideals and his steadfast confidence in democracy, freedom, and America.

Often, as Americans, we look back at our history to learn from our mistakes and celebrate our triumphs.

The leadership and accomplishments of President Reagan certainly will not be forgotten, for they shaped the country we call home and the world as we know it today.

Thank you President Reagan for your commitment, dedication, and faith in America and her people.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I gladly recognize and congratulate President Ronald Reagan on his 92nd birthday. However, I voted present because I could not in good conscience support a resolution that goes beyond simply offering personal well wishes and endorses President Reagan's economic policies.

I do not believe President Reagan's legacy of monumental budget deficits and excessive tax cuts for the rich was good economic policy. I don't believe his policies renewed America's economic prosperity. Instead they left too many Americans behind and left a giant bill we are still paying today.

I am sorry that the authors of this resolution felt it necessary to insert such partisan language. It would have otherwise been a completely non-controversial resolution that I would gladly support it.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and our 40th President—Ronald Reagan. He is a man who not only inspired a generation, but led a Nation through one of its most challenging eras. His inspiration has carried well beyond his public years and will influence Americans well beyond our years in Congress.

Let us never forget that the very policies we fight for every day on the House floor—increased defense spending, tax relief, homeland security and fiscal discipline—have the fingerprints of Ronald Reagan all over them. It was his leadership and ingenuity decades ago that serve as the very foundation of our legislative agendas today.

Ronald Reagan not only inspired a Nation—He inspired the world to follow a path of progress and humanity in a decade plagued with the threat of communist tyranny. Today, we face a similar battle—this time against the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. While Ronald Reagan may not be leading us in this battle, let us follow the path that he blazed over a decade ago. Should we follow the principles of his leadership, the blanket of freedom and democracy over America will only grow stronger.

Let me also note that it would not be appropriate to honor President Reagan without honoring the person that has heroically stood by his side with complete dedication and unwavering commitment. Nancy Reagan's commitment to her husband, parallels President Reagan's commitment to this Nation. Her daily struggle to confront a disease that has taken away the true voice and spirit we continue to rally around is nothing short of heroic and should inspire this entire Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring President Reagan on his 92 birthday by supporting H.J. Res. 19.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 19.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 395, DO- NOT-CALL IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House H.R. 395; that the bill be considered as read for amendment; that the bill be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage, without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2002 NCAA DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41) congratulating the University of Portland women's soccer team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I national championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 41

Whereas, on December 8, 2002, the University of Portland women's soccer team captured its first ever undisputed collegiate national soccer championship;

Whereas the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I title is the first championship in any sport for the University of Portland;

Whereas the University of Portland Pilots' 20-4-1 record in 2002 tied the record for wins in a season in University of Portland women's soccer history;

Whereas head coach Clive Charles, the University of Portland director of women's and men's soccer, has successfully built a nationally recognized collegiate soccer program, leading the University of Portland women's and men's teams to a collective 12 conference championships and 16 NCAA playoff berths, and producing players for the United States National and Olympic teams;

Whereas, on the way to the national championship, the Pilots defeated 7 nationally ranked opponents, which included a 2-1 title game triumph over the reigning champion, Santa Clara University;

Whereas the Pilots, the tournament's number 8 seed, now hold the record as the lowest seeded-team to win the national title in the women's national championship 21-year history;

Whereas sophomore Christine Sinclair set an NCAA tournament record with 21 points on 10 goals and 1 assist;

Whereas each player, coach, trainer, and manager dedicated time and effort to ensuring that the Pilots reached the pinnacle of team achievement; and

Whereas the students, alumni, faculty, and supporters of the University of Portland are to be congratulated for their commitment and pride in the Pilots' women's soccer program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the University of Portland women's soccer team for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I national championship and recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in this accomplishment;

(2) requests that the President recognize the accomplishments and achievements of the 2002 University of Portland women's soccer team and invite them to Washington, D.C., for a White House ceremony for national championship teams; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to the University of Portland for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of the resolution to each coach and member of the 2002 University of Portland women's soccer team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 41.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 41. This resolution recognizes and honors the talent and accomplishments of the University of Portland women's soccer team.

In December, the Pilots won their first-ever national title in a 2-to-1 win over Santa Clara University at the 2002 NCAA Women's College Cup. The Pilots ended their season with an impressive 20 win, 4 loss, 1 tie record.

The Pilots' victory exemplifies the determination and dedication that is a hallmark of collegiate athletic programs. A national championship is an accomplishment that will characterize the University of Portland's women's soccer team as a viable competitor for years to come.

Congratulations are in order to Head Coach Clive Charles and the entire women's soccer team at the University of Portland. I am happy to join the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) in honoring this extraordinary team in all of its accomplishments, and I wish all involved a very successful future.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 41 congratulating the University of Portland's women's soccer team for winning the NCAA Division 1 championship.

On December 8, the University of Portland captured its first national championship. In fact, this is the University of Portland's first national championship in any sport.

I want to start by extending my congratulations to Head Coach Clive Charles and to all of the athletes on the University's winning squad.

Winning a championship brings national acclaim to a school, and the team's players and fans should treasure this exciting moment.

While it is important that we focus on this victory, it is also critical to recognize how opportunities for women in sports have grown and the impact of title IX.

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This win by the University of Portland Women's Soccer Team reminds us of the value and importance of this landmark statute.

Unfortunately, Title IX is once again under attack. The administration's Commission on Opportunity in Athletics recently proposed so-called reforms to Title IX that would undermine this important civil rights statute. The commission's reports would recommend that girls and women be provided less athletic opportunity than boys and men by loosening protections and safeguards that have existed for many years. The commission was formed by Secretary Paige to advance the administration's agenda to weaken the opportunity for women and girls on the athletic field.

With Title IX successes over the 3-plus decades of its existence why would we want to weaken it now? Women now constitute more than 40 percent of